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PATRICK HAGAN.

Patrick Hagan was born in County Tyrone, in the Province of Ulster, Cloeno Parish, Ireland, February 2, 1828. He was a direct descendant of the O'Hagans of Tullahogue, Ireland, many of whom were eminent as lawyers, judges, statesmen, poets and literary men. He came of distinguished Irish families on both sides. His mother's maiden name was Ellen Campbell.

At the age of about sixteen years young Patrick Hagan migrated to America. He stopped for a short while at New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk and Richmond and from the latter place came to Scott County, Virginia, where he made his home with his uncle, Joseph Hagan, who had been in America for several years.

He never attended college, but took a special course of study under his uncle, Joseph Hagan, who was perhaps the first scholar of his day in this part of the State. He took a thorough course in English, Philosophy and Latin. Later on, he went to Tazewell County, Virginia, and read law in the office of Col. Joseph Stras who was one of the best lawyers of his day in the State.

Young Mr. Hagan began the practice of law at Estillville in Scott County, Virginia, and later removed to Lee County. He rose rapidly in the profession and within a very few years after he was admitted to the bar was recognized as one of the leading lawyers of the southwest. He was twice elected Attorney for the Commonwealth for Lee County and was said to have been a relentless prosecutor.

Mr. Hagan made a special study of the law pertaining to land titles. In this branch of the law he attained a national reputation. He appeared as leading counsel in some of the most important land suits ever tried in the United States. He was associated with and against Gen. B. F. Butler, Hon. William Pinkney Whyte, the Hon. John Randolph Tucker and other men of this type. He stood prominent in this class of men.

While making land law rather a specialty, he was a master



PATRICK HAGAN

in all branches of the law. He was one of the best criminal lawyers of the State.

Mr. Hagan was leading counsel for the defendant in the noted case on circumstantial evidence of *Dean v. The Commonwealth*, 32 Grat. 912. The most prominent lawyers in the southwest appeared in this case. Rufus A. Ayers, who afterwards became Attorney-General for the State, then a young lawyer, was Attorney for the Commonwealth. The leading prosecuting attorney was Judge Wm. H. Burns, a past master in criminal law, a born orator and a man of superb power before a jury. Judge H. S. Morison, who afterwards attained much prominence as a circuit judge, was the trial court. There were three trials of the case—two hung juries, and in the last case the defendant was convicted of murder in the first degree. The case was appealed first to Judge Jno. A. Kelly, father of our Supreme Court judge, Hon. Jos. L. Kelly, and then to the Supreme Court of Appeals, where a very able opinion was delivered by Judge Christian. In one of these trials, Mr. Hagan's argument before the jury consumed eight hours.

He was counsel for the defendant in Willis' case, reported in 32 Grat. 929. This was the first case that held that drunkenness could be proved for the purpose of reducing the offense from a higher to a lower one. The lower court was reversed in this case and the prisoner given a new trial.

Patrick Hagan had the broadest and most thorough legal education of any man of his day in this section of the State. He was master of Montesque, Coke, and Blackstone, knowing them almost like a boy knows the alphabet. He maintained that no man could know the philosophy of the law who did not have a thorough knowledge of these elementary masterpieces. With Coke, he contended that no man knew the law who did not know the reason of the law.

Mr Hagan was a man of considerable literary attainments. Roman and Grecian history and the standard classics especially appealed to him. One of his favorite books was "Telemaque." Of this book he said, "It contains wisdom infused into the mind in such a way that it inspires the loftiest ideals; it teaches how to attain the greatest happiness, and how afflictions may be mit-

igated, and reconciles man to his lot in life. The more you read and reflect upon the principles inculcated by it the better you become."

His arguments before courts and juries sparkled with choice passages from classical literature. In common conversation he most frequently illustrated his point with some beautiful literary quotation. He was fond of quoting poetry, especially to young folk.

He was a man of commanding personal appearance. He had a natural dignified bearing, a deep and mellow voice, a decidedly rich Irish brogue, so he was easily distinguished as a man of mark among any body of men.

He was a man of exemplary habits. It was said he did not know the taste of intoxicants of any kind or tobacco.

Among the noted characteristics of Mr. Hagan were his unbounded generosity and his great sympathy for the humble man. He was known far and near as the friend of the poor man. The most striking thing that impressed me with the funeral of this good man was the great number of humble folk who gathered to pay tribute to the memory of their best friend. The poor man from far up in the mountain was there with bowed head.

Patrick Hagan was a man of fine business talent. When the great industrial development, beginning about 1886, reached the southwest he made considerable investments in coal and timber lands, and his personal business so accumulated that it became necessary for him to retire from the bar and devote his entire time to his private business. He accumulated a very fine estate and at the time of his death was one of the wealthiest men of the southwest.

He lived after the manner of the old time southern gentleman, on a beautiful country estate, Sulphur Springs. His country home comprises twenty-five to thirty thousand acres of land on which he had erected a beautiful country mansion, fitted with all modern conveniences, where he reigned, the soul of hospitality.

He was identified with the Catholic church, and devoted himself to his religious duties with characteristic earnestness and

zealous devotion. His devotion to the Catholic faith of his ancestors was stripped of every sectarian feeling of intolerance; it was genuinely universal, and had the effect of softening and mellowing his whole nature and enriching his manner and address with quietness and repose, which were as beautiful and enduring as they were attractive.

Mr. Hagan married Mrs. Elizabeth Grubb, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Young. She is a woman of noble traits of mind and character and adorned the home of her distinguished husband with her loyalty and devotion. To them were born four sons and four daughters, four of whom, with their mother, survive their father. The oldest son, Charles F. Hagan, of Bristol, has had charge of his father's business for about five years.

Mr. Hagan was a staunch democrat, but never took any active part in politics.

His declining years were spent in retirement at his beautiful country home, Sulphur Springs, Scott County, Virginia. Here his end came peacefully, at 7:30 A. M., February 23, 1917, in his ninetieth year.

S. H. BOND.